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When You Leave the Relocation Center, n.d.

War Relocation Authority

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Mr Cook

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WHEN YOU LEAVE
THE
RELOCATION
CENTER

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

A Message to the Residents of Relocation Centers:

Ever since the earliest days of evacuation, the ultimate aim of the United States government has been to help the evacuated people re-establish themselves outside the military areas in cities and towns and on farms throughout the nation. Relocation centers were established primarily as places where evacuees might live and work in comparative security until an orderly program of individual resettlement could be developed and put into effect.

Such a program is now actively under way. Already several thousand evacuees have left the relocation centers to take jobs in private employment and to establish new homes; thousands more will be going out, we hope, in the months that lie ahead. The War Relocation Authority and a number of other agencies—public and private—are making every effort to encourage this movement and to find positions where evacuee talents and energies may be used to best advantage.

I am confident that the course we have chosen is a wise one both for the evacuees and the nation. Since becoming Director of the War Relocation Authority, I have been deeply impressed by the essential good faith, the energy, and the resourcefulness that are characteristic of the great majority of the evacuated people. These are qualities which we need in our shops and on our farms today more than ever before; they are qualities which we shall also need abundantly during the reconstruction period that will surely follow the peace.

All of you who are leaving the relocation centers at this time have my best wishes for a happy and successful life. If the way seems hard at times, try to remember that this is a period of national tension such as we have seldom known in our history. It is also, however, a period when all of us, regardless of our ancestry, can get closer to the real meaning of American life than we ever have in the past. I know all of you will make the most of that opportunity.

D. S. Myer
Director



WHEN YOU LEAVE THE RELOCATION CENTER

As a nation made up of people from many lands with new opportunities and new challenges always beckoning, the United States always has seen its population on the move. So, moving into a new community and a new part of the country is an experience that many have gone through before.

People of Japanese ancestry who have moved into new areas since the war have reported some experiences which seemed worth bringing to your attention; other Americans interested in the well-being of American Japanese also have offered suggestions for your guidance. This pamphlet sets forth some of the major ideas offered by both groups. It is provided to you in the hope that it may contribute to your success in establishing a new home in new surroundings; in no sense is it intended as a set of rules and regulations.

IF YOU ARE TAKING A JOB

. the first person you will want to see in your new community is, of course, your new employer. Get in touch with him as soon as possible and find out when you are expected to report for work. At the same time, unless you have other contacts, you may want to get his suggestions on where you might look for a place to live. Don't be surprised if you have difficulty in finding a place to live, whether you want a room, an apartment, or a house. You may run into some discrimination, but an even stronger influence is the simple fact that in most parts of the country, especially where there is war activity, many communities are overcrowded and housing is scarce.

Once you are on the job and reasonably well settled, you will begin making friends and developing a social life for yourself and your family. There are many gates through which you may enter the life of the community; some of these are churches, parent-teacher associations, farm organizations, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., employee organizations of various types, and civic organizations.

If you have children of school age, a visit with the teacher will be helpful in getting the children off to a good start.

IF YOU ARE A STUDENT

. you will find many opportunities to make friends both in and out of the class room. The officials of several hundred colleges have extended a welcome to evacuee students, and the experience of those evacuees who have enrolled in colleges thus far indicates that the student body as a whole cordially seconds that welcome. Probably you recognize the responsibility that rests upon each student to make a creditable record, scholastically and socially, not for himself alone, but for the benefit of other students or prospective students of Japanese ancestry.

IF YOU ARE NOT AN AMERICAN CITIZEN

. you will be required to observe the regulations prescribed by the Department of Justice for aliens. A copy of these regulations already has been given to you, and copies also are available from the Leave Officer in the relocation center.

The Department of Justice regulations require that before you go to a new location you obtain a travel permit from the United States District Attorney for the area in which you plan to live. Your indefinite leave permit will be accepted for this purpose in connection with your travel from the relocation center to your first destination. If, however, you plan to make any subsequent moves, a permit will have to be obtained from the United States Attorney covering the district in which you are living at the time.

IF YOU PLAN TO LIVE IN A WESTERN STATE

. in Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Montana, eastern Oregon, eastern Washington or northern Arizona, you will be governed by regulations of the Western Defense Command for all persons of Japanese descent residing in that military command, which includes all the states mentioned, plus California.

These regulations prohibit the possession or use of firearms, weapons of any kind, ammunition, bombs or explosives, short-wave radio receiving sets having a frequency of 1750 Kilocycles or greater or of 450 Kilocycles or less, radio transmitting sets, signal devices, codes or ciphers, and cameras.

NO MATTER WHERE YOU LIVE

. there are a few things you must do which are relatively simple, but nonetheless essential. As soon as you arrive in your new location, you are required to notify the Director of the War Relocation Authority of your address. The postcard (Report of Arrival) furnished to you at the relocation center may be used for this purpose. If you change your address at any time, you are also required by the conditions of your leave permit to notify the Director of the War Relocation Authority of your new location. Here again, a special postcard which you will receive before you leave the relocation center may be used.

Another provision of your indefinite leave is that, if you are ordered to do so by the Director of the War Relocation Authority, you will return to a relocation center. The Director has no intention of invoking this provision unless it is absolutely necessary, but there may be conditions which require steps of this nature for the good of the individual, of other evacuees or of the nation.

YOU ARE ON YOUR OWN RESPONSIBILITY

. after you leave a relocation center. You may change jobs, establish a business, marry, travel, or in general do anything that any other person may do, with the exceptions already mentioned.

If you want to arrange for members of your family or your fiance to leave a relocation center and join you, write them and suggest that they take the matter up with the Leave Officer at the relocation center, stating your wishes, and explaining how they will be supported.

If you need to return to a relocation center temporarily, write to the Director of the center you wish to visit. He is authorized to grant permission for you to enter and leave the center and can advise you of the arrangements that will have to be made.

College students may take jobs, either during a vacation period or on a permanent basis. The only requirement is that if a change of address or employment is involved, the Director of WRA must be notified of your new address and of the name and address of your employer.

THE WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY CAN HELP

. and will help you in some situations. For example, occasionally a police official apprehends someone of Japanese ancestry, on the suspicion that he has escaped from confinement. To guard against unwarranted arrest, always keep your WRA leave permit and other credentials with you. If you should be arrested simply because of your race, and in spite of evidence you are able to provide, communicate with the Relocation Supervisor serving the area where you are, stating where you are being held and by whom. The addresses of Relocation Supervisors are given in this pamphlet. Steps will be taken to bring about your release. If, however, your arrest is for law violation, the War Relocation Authority will not intercede.

If you need advice on community attitudes in connection with a contemplated move to a new locality, get in touch with the Relocation Supervisor for the area in which you live. In most cases, he will be able to give you some helpful information.

IF YOU REQUEST WRA ASSISTANCE

. for travel to your job, it is suggested that you apply for yourself and all your dependents who may join you later. In this way they may also secure a travel grant to join you, whereas if they are not included in your original application, there will be no WRA travel assistance available to cover them. Dependents of a person on indefinite leave are not required to pay for accommodations in a relocation center.

OTHER AGENCIES CAN HELP

. if you need assistance. The WRA will not be responsible for medical or other assistance to evacuees outside Relocation Centers. If you find it necessary to ask for assistance you should make application to a local public welfare agency in the community in which you are working. Arrangements have been made by the Social Security Board with the state public welfare agencies to provide such emergency assistance to evacuees who may be financially unable to provide for their own needs.

RETURN TO A RELOCATION CENTER

. is possible but not encouraged. When you leave a relocation center on indefinite leave, it is assumed that you wish to relocate and do not intend to return. The assistance of public welfare agencies described in the preceding paragraph has been arranged for in order that persons encountering temporary financial difficulties may secure help which will enable them to live permanently outside relocation centers. However, as long as relocation centers are maintained, a person on indefinite leave may return and reenter a relocation center if he finds it impossible to maintain employment or residence elsewhere and the circumstances otherwise warrant a return. Persons on indefinite leave wishing to return to a relocation center should get in touch with the relocation supervisor serving the area where they are residing. If no means of maintaining residence outside the center which is acceptable to the evacuee can be found, the relocation supervisor will contact the project and arrangement for return will promptly be made. If you return to a relocation center from indefinite leave and wish to leave again, you will not be eligible the second time for financial assistance from the War Relocation Authority for travel.

YOU CAN HELP IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS

. to make the relocation program successful. By establishing yourself in a community, making friends and developing a normal, satisfying life for yourself and your family, you will help to create a public attitude favorable to yourself and to other Americans of Japanese ancestry; at the same time, your success may encourage other evacuees who have been hesitant to see opportunities to leave the centers. Letters to relatives and friends still in the centers will aid in this respect.

In your work and in your social contacts, be alert to opportunities for employment for other evacuees. If and when other evacuees move to your community you can be helpful to them in locating places to live, in getting acquainted with the community and with people you have met.

In a sense, you are an "ambassador" for the entire group of evacuated people. If you keep this thought in mind, your own relocation is pretty likely to be a success from every point of view.

RELOCATION SUPERVISORS AND AREAS

. are shown on the attached map. Relocation Officers attached to these offices are located in other cities around the country, and if you wish to get in touch with them their addresses can be secured from the relocation supervisors.

Relocation Supervisor
War Relocation Authority
318 Atlas Building
Salt Lake City, Utah

Relocation Supervisor
War Relocation Authority
Midland Savings Building
Denver, Colorado

Relocation Supervisor
War Relocation Authority
Union Commercial Bank Building
Cleveland, Ohio

Relocation Supervisor
War Relocation Authority
1509 Fidelity Building
Kansas City, Missouri

Relocation Supervisor
War Relocation Authority
226 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, Illinois

Relocation Supervisor
War Relocation Authority
Pyramid Building
Little Rock, Arkansas

Relocation Supervisor
War Relocation Authority
Room 1410, 50 Broadway
New York, New York



